# Neighborhood News

## **May Meeting Highlights**

All Habecker led the meeting. Allentown Police Officer Jarrouj gave a brief report about police activity in the neighborhood. Tom Mulligan reported graffiti near Lafayette and Allen Streets. Neighbors are encouraged NOT to attempt to clean it themselves, but to call the Graffiti Busters number (see page 2) if this is a problem in your area. This city department documents graffiti activity and works with the police department to catch offenders. Al and Ev Habecker reported that they had no real estate letters to send out this month. The major part of the meeting was devoted to a presentation by David Fries, Housing Inspector with the Building Standards & Safety Department for the city. There are four types of housing inspections:

- 1. Rental inspections—A Residential Rental Registration is a document issued annually for a fee by the City of Allentown to the owner, operator, responsible agent or manager of a residential rental unit. This registration is required until an inspector inspects the unit and issues a Residential Rental License. A Residential Rental Registration is required for lawful rental and occupancy of residential rental units in the city. A Residential Rental License is a document issued to the owner, operator, responsible agent or manager of a residential rental unit upon correction of all applicable code violations. This license is required for lawful rental and occupancy of residential rental units.
- 2. Section 8 Inspections—Inspections of properties whose owners wish to qualify the property as a HUD house.
- 3. Response to a complaint—A complaint can come from any source (neighbor, tenant, etc.). If a complainant feels the property might be in violation of code regulations, an inspection for the area of complaint can be made.
- 4. Presale inspection—Before a house can be sold, an inspection is made to verify that the house meets all the code requirements.

Inspections are scheduled in a five year rotation. Personnel shortages in the department make meeting this schedule a challenge. Whenever possible, notifications of upcoming inspections are made via post card about two weeks prior to the planned visit. During a question and answer period, Mr. Fries mentioned that a lack of working smoke detectors in each sleeping area of residences is the most common code violation. Mr. Fries encouraged neighbors to install carbon monoxide detectors in their homes. They will soon be required in the new city construction code. He distributed a list of the most common code violations in the city. As a follow up to the CLEAN UP – FIX UP – PAINT UP campaign in our April newsletter, this list could be helpful to anyone who wishes to make sure their home meets the residential code requirements. Copies of the list and coupons from Albright Hardware and Hardware Plus will be available at our June meeting.



Our next meeting: Wednesday, June 9 7:00 P.M

Christ E.C. Church 2135 Tilghman St.

Muhlenberg Area Community
Watch meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 7:00
P.M. at Christ E. C. Church
2135 Tilghman St., Lower
Level

We invite residents of any neighborhood in the city to join us!

Future Meetings: Wednesday, August 11 Wednesday, September 8

Note: No meeting in July



Is there a house for sale in your neighborhood? Would you like the owner/realtor to know about the Student Overlay Guidelines? Call/email Al and Ev Habecker at 610-432-8032/aehabecker@msn.com

#### **MAC Contact Information:**

Secretary/Treasurer: Chris Gabellini 610- 439-3610, gabellinidesign@verizon.net

Circulation of newsletters: Al Habecker, Lud Schlecht, and Gretchen Krasley

Newsletter Publication: Gretchen Krasley 610 821-7716, Gretchenkrasley@aol.com

**Patrol of Neighborhood:** Tom Mulligan 610 433-1512

Conducting meetings: Rotating responsibility

Presidents' Council meetings: Tom Burke 610 432-4079

Real Estate Sales Letters: Al and Ev Habecker 610-432-

8032, aehabecker@msn.com

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## **CHRIST EVANGELICAL**

## **CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

22nd & Tilghman Sts Phone: 610-434-1652 http://www.christecchurch.com

Sunday School ~ 9:15 a.m. Worship ~ 10:30 a.m.

#### **WANT TO PLACE AN AD?**

CALL 610 821-7716

Even though the nights are longer, fading daylight isn't enough to discourage criminals. Police remind us that installing outdoor lights and trimming shrubs that obstruct clear views of windows and doors are deterrents to crime.



#### Phone Numbers to Know

City Information Desk 610 439-5999

Code Enforcement 610 437-7661

Code Enforcement Rental Licensing 610 437-7694.

Community Problems (neighbor disputes)  $610\ 437-7773$ 

Crime Prevention Unit 610 437-7719

Emergency Medical Services (paramedics) 610 437-7531

Emergency Medical Services (non-emergency) 610 437-7751

Garbage Complaints 610 437-8729

**Graffiti Busters 610 437-8729** 

Graffiti in Progress 9-1-1

Housing Compliance/Inspections 610 437-7697

Leaf Pickup 610 437-7587

Police Calls (non-emergency) 610 437-7751\*

Rental Unit Inspections 610 437-7695

Sewer Back-up 610 437 7639

Sewer Emergencies after hours 610 437-7751

State Representative Jennifer Mann 610 821-5577 SWEEP (Bureau of Recycling and Solid Waste) 610

SWEEP (Bureau of Recycling and Solid Waste) 610 437-8729

Weeds/Grass Overgrowth 610 437-8729

Yard Waste Recycling 610 437-8729

Zoning 610 437-7630

\* When calling 610 437-7751, remember that anything that impairs the peace, dignity, and decorum of the neighborhood is considered "disruptive conduct."